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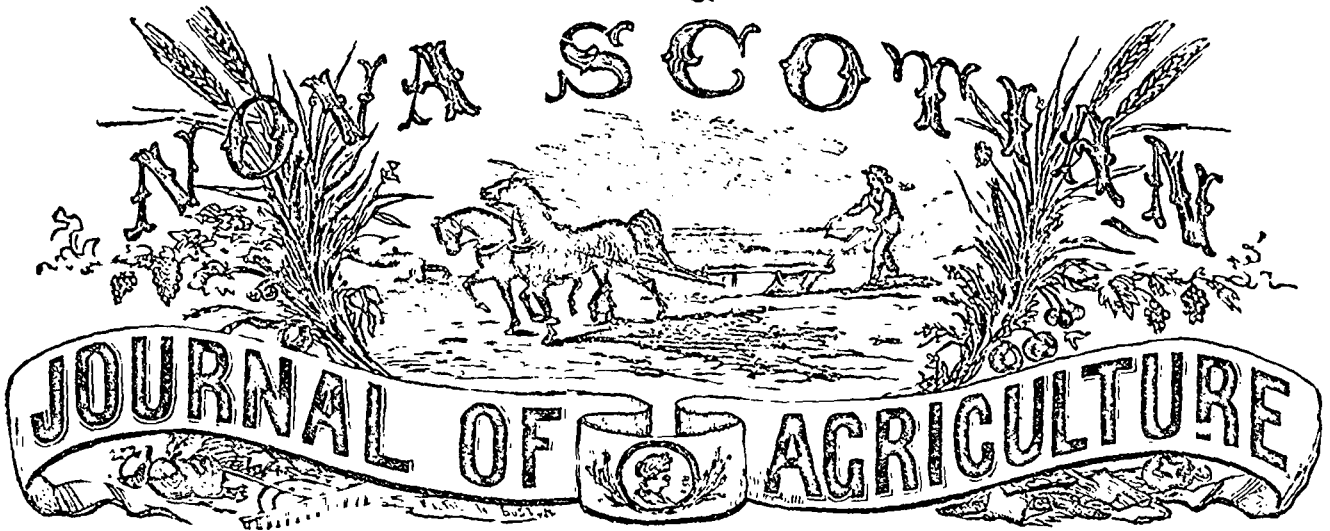
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The Field and Farm Yard.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NAKED BARLEY OF NEPAL.

It has already been noticed in this Journal that Sanford Fleming, Esq., C.E., presented to the Board of Agriculture two bushels of a variety of barley new to the province. The barley in question (at first spoken of as Polish Barley) has been raised successfully and proves to be the Naked Barley of Nepal, which is described in English books under the various names of Nepal or Himalayan Barley, Nepal Wheat, Naked Barley, Hordeum Nepalense, Hordeum trifurcatum, and is known by the French as Orge trifurque. It is, apparently, the Hordeum Egiceras of Royle, sometimes described as Tartarian Wheat. There appears to be little doubt but that it is one of the grains repeatedly referred to in Buchanan Hamilton's "Account of the Kingdom of Nepal," under the name of *Uya* which Colonel Madden, in his "Elucidation" of Hamilton's work, refers to Hordeum celeste, "well known to the residents of Simla as the *Ua jao*, or *Ua Barley*, being in high estimation in the preparation of cakes." We enumerate

these names as the result of a rainy-day's investigation undertaken with the view of ascertaining with precision the proper name and relations of Mr. Fleming's grain.

This variety of barley has a remarkably large, fine looking grain without any husk, so that its appearance is more that of wheat than of barley. The plant is remarkably robust, with stout, not very tall, straw, and very broad glaucous green leaves. Our portion of it was sown very late in the spring, but the crop has grown remarkably well, the plants have tillered out, and there is every prospect of a heavy yield.

The Nepal Barley was first introduced into Britain from the Himalayan mountains (where it is said to grow near the line of perpetual snow) in 1817, under the name of Nepal wheat. It was said to be an early variety capable of ripening two crops in one summer, an expectation that has not, so far as we are aware, been realized. There is no doubt however but that it is a most valuable grain, and it is likely to prove as profitable in this country as it has done with the gentleman (— Fleming, Esq., Toronto,) who was instrumental in introducing it into Canada.

We have referred to Buchanan Hamilton's "Account of the Kingdom of Nepal"

for information relative to the character which this barley bears in its native fields, but we do not find much in the way of useful details. The mode of cultivation adopted on the inundated or irrigated lands of the Nepal valley is thus described:—

"Immediately after the Puya crop (a summer rice crop) has been cut, the ground is formed into beds by throwing the earth out of parallel trenches upon the intermediate spaces. On these, about the middle of November, is sown wheat, or sometimes a little barley. These ripen without further trouble, and are cut from 12th April to 12th May. The seed for a rupine is stated to be one pati, and the produce is stated to be two muris. This would make the seed about the fifth part of a bushel an acre, and the produce about fourteen bushels; but this seems to be greatly exaggerated. I have never seen more wretched crops, and most of the fields of wheat are quite choked with hemp (*cannabis saliva*), which in Nepal is a troublesome and useless weed. The wheat and barley are mostly used for making fermented or distilled liquors."

the gentlemen to whom Nepal Barley were sent

will forward for publication their observations on its character and qualities.—No doubt these samples have been treated very differently from the way in which the Nepalese seem to treat their barley at home; and we expect from what we have already learnt that the results will be such as to commend this new grain to general cultivation in Nova Scotia.

There is another kind of naked barley not unknown in this Province, called the Naked Siberian, or Naked Six Rowed Barley, but its grain, although of excellent quality, is greatly inferior in size and appearance to the present sort. It may be known from the Nepal Barley by its remarkably long rigid spreading awns. For convenience we append a memorandum of the characters of the two, and add some particulars from "Lawson's Agriculturist's Manual" of the Siberian sort:

NEPAL BARLEY, (*Hordeum Egciceras.*)—Ears cylindrical, spikelets arranged around the rachis in an irregular manner, not in rows, awns soft, short, hooded and bent downwards; grains loose in the husk.

SIBERIAN BARLEY, (*Hordeum gymnohexasticum.*)—Ears cylindrical, spikelets in six rows; awns very long, rough and rigid, spreading; grains loose in the husk. Orge Celeste of the French.

The Siberian Barley was introduced to Britain in the year 1768 by a Mr. Hali-day, who having nearly a quart of seed, sowed the whole in drills in the first week in May, the produce was hung up in the ear, and in the beginning of April 1769, was thrashed out, and found to produce nearly a bushel. On the 19th and 20th of that month it was sown again, and was reaped on the 15th and 16th of August following; the produce was thirty-six bushels of clean corn. Two bushels, weighing 132 lbs., being sent to the mill, yielded 80 lbs. of fine flour, equal to the London second; 40 lbs. of a coarse sort, and 12 lbs. of bran superior to that of wheat. The best flour made excellent bread, and so retentive of moisture as to be as good at twelve or fourteen days after baking as wheaten bread on the fourth day; and 12 lbs. of barley, and the same of wheat flour being made into bread, and baked in the same oven, the wheaten loaf weighed 15 lbs., and the barley 18 lbs.; two bushels of it being malted, were brewed into a half barrel of ale, and another of small beer, both of which proved to be very good.

THE LONG-WOOLLED SHEEP.

Under this head range the old and new Leicesters, the Teeswaters, the Lincolns, the Cotswolds, the Romney Marsh, and some other breeds of sheep, of which Britain is noted. From the

breed has never lost its distinguishing features. Its origin is lost in remote antiquity. Where it now reigns predominant, there it has existed time immemorial. It claims the green swards and luxuriant pastures of the midland counties as its peculiar province, not perhaps its exclusive province, but as its "*dilecta sedes.*"

Of these breeds the Leicestershire strain, from its importance and the part it has taken in modifying not only the allied long-woolled races, but some also of the short-woolled stocks, first demands our notice.

Mr. George Culley, in his excellent *Observations on Live Stock*, evidently gives more credit to Mr. Bakewell for his improvements in the old Leicester breed of sheep than in the long-horned breed of cattle; in both instances, indeed, this great agriculturist produced the most important alterations; nevertheless, the effects of his skill and industry as respects the latter have proved evanescent. The dynasty of the long horns has passed; but the Dishley breed of sheep, established by him, still retain their pristine qualities, and are unrivalled in their own country or in the world.

It was about the middle of the last century that Mr. Bakewell, of Dishley in Leicestershire, first applied himself to the improvement of the old Leicesters. This old breed had many good points, yet it had its defects, and these of no trifling character; it was large, heavy, and coarse-grained, the mutton having little flavour, and no delicacy; it was long in the carcase, flat-sided, large-boned, and clumsy; the ewes weighed 18 or 20 lbs. the quarter, the wethers from 20 to 30 lbs. The wool measured from 10 to 15 inches in the length of the staple, and was variable as to quality, but generally coarse.—These sheep were slow feeders, and returned little profit.

Such was the stock, common to Leicestershire and the adjacent counties, on which Mr. Bakewell began his course of experiments; in the prosecution of which he violated all the old axioms of his day, and proceeded upon principles totally at variance with those by which the breeders had previously regulated their practice.—They aimed at size, irrespective of symmetry and aptitude to fatten; and at heavy fleeces, considering weight of wool as of primary importance. Mr. Bakewell, on the contrary, regarded symmetry and aptitude to fatten as first-rate qualities; he found these to be inherent in small, not in large heavy-boned sheep, which latter consumed an extravagant abundance of food without returning an adequate profit; whereas the smaller sheep he found to increase more rapidly in weight, proportionately, even upon a less consumption of diet. His experience also taught him another point, viz.,

that sheep carrying a heavy fleece had always less aptitude to fatten, and were far slower in ripening, than those whose fleece was moderate; and he considered symmetry and early ripening to be of more importance than the loss of a few pounds in the fleece. In short, he considered that the value of the carcase was the first object to be attended to in breeding of sheep; and he looked upon the fleece as of secondary importance—not that the loss of two or three pounds in the fleece was not an object, but still he thought that if to preserve this the farmer not only lost ten or twelve pounds of mutton by it, but had to feed his sheep for twelve or eighteen months longer than he ought, he would pay dearly for his three pounds of wool extra, Mr. Bakewell was right; and on these principles he addressed himself to his task.

The improved Leicesters are not adapted for a scanty pasturage, over which the sheep must travel all day in order to procure a sufficiency of food. They require a good, or at least moderate soil, and on this they fatten with incredible rapidity, and are consequently very profitable to the breeder. If in the establishment of this breed Mr. Bakewell erred, it was in the very little regard he paid to the wool, in which his immediate followers imitated him, some even going so far as to prefer sheep with bad fleeces to those with good, as if a fine and perfect carcase and good wool were incompatible with each other. But this false notion is now corrected, and the fleece obtains its due share of attention.

With respect to the quality of the mutton of the improved Leicesters, we do not estimate it so highly as that of some of the short-woolled breeds. When not over fat, it is tender and juicy, but destitute of high flavour; but when fattened to a high degree, the interstices of the fibres of the muscles are replete with fat in such a manner that the line of distinction between fat and lean is almost, as it were, lost; the carcase appears to be a mass of fat, and is anything but attractive. Besides, such meat is not profitable to the purchaser, though it may be to the cook. We admit, however, that it is the grazier's fault if he carries the fattening process beyond the point at which he ought to stop, whether he regards his own profit or the interest of the consumer. It is the character of the breed to ripen early and quickly. As soon as the sheep are in a proper condition for the butcher, the grazier, instead of wasting more food upon them, should get rid of them, and commence the feeding of another lot, to be disposed of in their turn as soon as ready.

It is for the accumulation of outside fat that the Leicesters are chiefly remarkable. They have comparatively little loose inside fat or tallow—a point of some consequence to the butcher, who deems this as

adding to his profit. By way of a counterbalance, however, the smallness of the head, the thinness of the pelt, and the general greater weight of the carcass than the appearance of the animal would indicate, should be taken into consideration. Whatever it may be to the butcher, "this diminution of ossal is advantageous to the grazier; for it shows a disposition to form fat outwardly, and is uniformly accompanied by a tendency to quickness of improvement." In this latter quality the new Leicesters, *ceteris paribus*, are unrivalled.

The new Leicesters, with all their good qualities, are not a hardy race, neither are they so prolific as many other breeds. The ewes seldom produce twins, nor indeed did the founders of this stock deem the production of twins desirable. They aimed at bringing forward the lamb as early as possible, and rightly considered that few ewes could produce two such lambs as would meet with their wishes and realize their object. The fact, moreover, is, that the exclusive attention paid to the establishment of a race, the vital energies of which were to be exhibited in the attainment of early maturity and in the quick accumulation of fat, while productive of the results aimed at, necessarily entailed counterbalancing deficiencies. A tendency to rapid fattening and early ripeness is not co-existent, as a general rule, with great fertility. In this point, then, the new Leicesters are defective, but less so than formerly. Still the ewes do not yield any great abundance of milk, and the lambs are tender, delicate, and unfitted to endure any great inclemency of weather.

Such, then, are the new Leicesters, to which so many other breeds owe their improvement by crossing; indeed, if we limit our attention to this part alone of their history, the benefits resulting from them will be found as important as they are extensive. Not only have they improved the long-wooled races of our island, but also various strains of the short-wooled sheep, sometimes perhaps to the diminution of the hardihood of the latter, and always to the increase in the weight of the fleece and its acquisition of greater length and fineness of staple, changing it from a clothing wool no longer marketable, into a valuable combing middle wool for which there is a constant demand. In the midland counties the influence of the Leicesters is everywhere apparent; if we visit the southern and western counties we still observe the effects of their introduction; and the same observation applies to the north, and even to Scotland, of which the Cheviot sheep owe to them many of their present excellences, as early ripeness, improvement of fleece, and amelioration of form. It would be folly to attempt to naturalize the new Leicesters on coarse, lean pastures, on

wilds, heaths, and mountain moorlands; they would rapidly degenerate, and few of their lambs, with the best care, would survive the winter; but, as in the instance of the Cheviots, the hardy mountain sheep may derive no trifling improvement from a cross, and that too, without a loss of hardiness.—*From Martin's Treatise on the Sheep.*

CATTLE DISEASES IN THE UNITED STATES.

We extract the following from the "Journal of the New York State Agricultural Society"—

AN IMPORTANT CIRCULAR—APPEARANCE OF THE CATTLE DISEASE—PLEURO-PNEUMONIA IN N. YORK & BROOKLYN.

In the important circular, which is here appended, issued by Hon. J. Stanton Gould, President, and Col. B. P. Johnston, Secretary, of the New York State Ag. Society, it is officially announced that the cattle disease, known as pleuro-pneumonia, has made its appearance in New York and Brooklyn. This circular should be published in every paper throughout the country:

ALBANY, June 9, 1866.

The Rinderpest Commissioners of the State of New York, having been officially informed by Dr. Samuel Percy that the infectious disease known as pleuro-pneumonia was prevailing in several stables in New York and Brooklyn, and that the Board of Health had positively ordered the removal of such cattle from the city; and the Rinderpest Commissioners not being satisfied of their power to act in the cases of pleuro-pneumonia, referred the communication to the State Agricultural Society.

The officers of the Society living in the vicinity of Albany believing that publication ought to be given before the meeting of the Executive Committee, of the existence of the disease and the danger of its diffusion, requested the President and Secretary to publish such notice and warning.

In conformity with this advice, we do hereby make known the existence of pleuro-pneumonia among the cows in the stables of New York and Brooklyn, and earnestly advise all purchasers of stock to examine those which are offered for sale, with reference to this disease.

We also advise that in case the disease makes its appearance in any herd, the sick animal be immediately and rigidly separated from the rest.

The period of incubation of this disease varies from forty-two to sixty days.

It is well ascertained that this disease is strictly infectious, it never occurs where the animal has not come into contact with diseased animals.

The meat of animals suffering from pleuro-pneumonia is dangerous when used as human food.

It is very probable that the diseased herds which are now being excluded from the city will be offered for sale at very low prices to farmers. This contingency calls for additional precautions on the part of purchasers.

JOHN S. GOULD, *President.*
B. P. JOHNSON, *Secretary.*

CATTLE DISEASE IN MAINE.

[We received the annexed from S. L. Goodale, Esq., in relation to the cattle disease in Maine.]

During the latter half of April a disease appeared in the herd of Mr. Henry Freethy, of York, York County, Me.—His herd consisted of ten. After several had died, a man, reputed a farrier, was called in from Berwick, who pronounced the disease to be pleuro-pneumonia, as he had seen it in Massachusetts some years ago. The selectmen then notified the governor and myself of the existence of a disease suspected to be contagious. I received the letter on the 11th May, and the next day about noon was in York, but found the last sick one had died the day previous—making six. The remaining four appeared perfectly well. Inquiries regarding the symptoms, and the post mortem appearances of two which had been examined by physicians of the place, satisfied me at once and fully that it bore no resemblance to pleuro-pneumonia.—One might as well mistake dysentery for asthma as this for that. But they painfully suggested the possibility of rinderpest. Fortunately, the cattle had been kept close at the barn from the first, and as soon as infection was suspected a rigid isolation was intentionally and judiciously kept up.

As nothing more then appeared needful to be done, I directed the premises to be disinfected and complete isolation to be continued for some weeks. Returning home, I read what my library furnished regarding the peculiarities of rinderpest, the effect of which was to increase my anxiety.

On the 16th, information was received of two more cases, and the herd was again visited. On seeing the cattle, I recognized or fancied that I saw characteristic symptoms of rinderpest additional to what had been reported to me on the first visit, and little or nothing was found distinctively different. The animals were both killed. The morbid appearances correspond substantially with those reported elsewhere, the differences not being great between the accounts lately received and those given by Prof. [Name] who reports several years since [Name] made on the cattle.

Briefly, the symptoms were as follows: The first which were noticed were described as "tremblings." What I saw was a continuous twitching of the muscles of the foreshoulders, occasionally extending to the flank, with now and then a tremor. These twitchings grew fainter as the disease progressed, and nearly or quite ceased before death. Watery eyes appeared very early, and before long, in most cases, they had a heavy look, with swollen and drooping lids. In one case a film appeared at a late stage. At first the dejections were natural, then diarrhœa set in which soon passed into dysentery, with fluid and very dark discharges, not very offensive, and some blood. Tenesmus frequent. Urine very deep colored, and passed with difficulty. Temperature variable; at first feverish, especially about the horns, then colder. Coat staring. Rumination irregular and soon suspended. Some appetite for a day or two, but not later; water was freely taken at all times. Pulse feebler and quick; after two days could hardly be felt. Respiration short and quick. In more than half there was a thick discharge from the nose. With several a sickly smell was noticed. In no case was there any moaning, violent motions, or any other indication of acute suffering; but in all a rapid prostration of strength and loss of vitality. Death ensued in from three to six days—one living until the ninth day.

The morbid appearances were: Windpipe inflamed (this was noticed equally in one which showed no discharge from the nostrils); lungs and heart healthy; liver, spleen, and kidneys but little affected; rumen (paunch) healthy and ingestion natural; contents of omasum (manifold) rather hard and dry, but not very much so. The passage from this to the abomasum (or fourth stomach) was highly inflamed, as well as the lining membrane of the whole of the fourth stomach, and of all the remainder of the alimentary canal. The gall bladder was distended to unusual size, and its mucous membrane much inflamed. The lining membrane of the bladder exhibited a high degree of inflammation, and its color was rather darker than of the others. The chief seat of the disease appeared to be the fourth stomach and intestines. The lining membrane of these showed an unusual lilac or pale purplish hue.

One word more and I leave the matter. In Prof. Simond's report occurs the following: "It is evident that the morbid matter on which it depends, having entered the system, * * * soon acts upon the blood, by converting some of the constituents of that fluid into its own elements." &c. If this be so, it must belong to the class known as "contagious diseases; in which progress is made by healthy atoms being converted into diseased ones by catalytic action."

ner analogous to the changes which take place in fermentation. Now it is well known that the alkaline sulphites will arrest fermentation; and, according to a late alleged discovery of Prof. Polli, of Italy, they also arrest morbid action of the sort above indicated. It occurred to me that here might be an opportunity to test their efficacy. Accordingly, on my second visit, I took a quantity of sulphite of soda, and requested the owner to administer small doses twice daily to the remaining beasts, which he did—and the plague stayed—whether in consequence of giving a harmless salt, or merely coincident with it, I cannot tell. Nor is any opinion expressed whether it was the veritable rinderpest or not. So far as I am advised, it bore a considerable resemblance to it, and was unlike any previously observed in New England.

S. L. GOODALE,
Sec'y Maine Board of Agriculture.

SACO, June, 1866.

HALIFAX BRANCH OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

PROSPECTS.—The frequent occurrence of cases of cruel usage of animals, having called the attention of several persons to the necessity of adopting some means of checking such inhuman practices, a preliminary meeting was held, at which the following resolutions were adopted:

From a correspondence which was laid before the meeting (with the Secretary of the Royal Society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, in London), it appeared that the Royal Society would aid an association in Halifax for that object, by every means in their power, and they recommended that such association be a branch of the Royal Society; whereupon it was unanimously resolved, that a society be formed in Halifax, to be called "The Halifax Branch of the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals."

It was then resolved that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor be requested to be the Patron of the Society.

It was resolved that an annual subscription of not less than Five Shillings constitute a member.

The following officers of the Society were appointed to act until others are appointed by the subscribers at their first annual meeting, viz.:

President.—The Hon. Wm. Young, Chief Justice.

Vice-Presidents.—The Hon. J. W. Ritchie, Solicitor General; Col. Francklyn, (Emscott).

Committee.—The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop, the Hon. C. Tupper, Provincial Secretary, Hon. M. B. Almon, Hon. S. L. Campbell, William Cunard, Esq., Lt.-Colonel Stanley, J. C. Haliburton, Esq.,

Hon. E. Kenny, J. C. Cogswell, Esq., Hon. Mr. Justice Johnston, Rev. Dr. Hannan, His Worship the Mayor, Rev. G. M. Grant, Rev. G. W. Hill, Stephen Tobin, Esq., with power to add to their number.

Honorary Secretary.—P. Carteret Hill.

In order to accomplish the object of the association, it will be necessary to apply to the Legislature to amend the law on the subject of cruelty to animals, as at present it is in a very vague and unsatisfactory condition. No difficulty is apprehended on this point. It will also be necessary to employ in the first instance a constable or other officer of the Society, to report any violations of the law which may come under his notice, and to aid in enforcing it. Information will be diffused by the circulation of books, pamphlets, &c., (which the Parent Society have kindly offered to furnish), and it is hoped that the clergy will lend their powerful influence by appeals from the pulpit in impressing upon the community the humane and considerate treatment of animals as a christian duty now universally recognised.

An annual income will of course be necessary to carry on the operations of the Society, for which purpose the subscription of 5s. will, it is hoped, suffice.

The committee earnestly hope that all those who sympathize with the brute creation, will aid them in their effort to alleviate the misery which the dumb animal is itself unable to avert or to mitigate.

THE FRUIT CROPS IN THE UNITED STATES.

In the August number of the *Gardeners' Monthly*, Mr. Mehan gives the following rather unsatisfactory account of the prospects of the fruit harvest in the States:

Friends were there from New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Maryland, as well as from the various districts of Pennsylvania. From conversations with these gentlemen we learned that, except in New Jersey, fruit crops have been almost a total failure this year. Dr. Warder said the scarcity at Cincinnati was such that Strawberries that usually brought from 3 to 5 cents per quart, (pretty low if reported right,) brought this year from 30 to 50 cents.—The *hardy* Raspberries, as well as the "other" kinds, had been killed by the winter. The Grape crop was the only one promising much.

Dr. Massey, of Maryland, said there would be about one-third of a crop of Peaches. Pears and Apples were better.

E. Satterthwait, of Montgomery County, gave a discouraging account of all his fruit crops.

Parker Earle, of Cobden, Illinois, referred to Dr. Hull's orchard, who grows

Peaches and Plums on alternate trees.—The curculio has a preference for the Plum. By perseverance in the jarring process, tolerable and profitable crops were obtained regularly.

J. M. Jordan, of St. Louis, spoke favorably of the Grape crop there, especially Concord. Strawberries and Cherries nearly failures.

An interesting discussion on the merits of under-draining, in connection with profitable fruit-growing, took place between A. W. Harrison, J. J. Thomas, and others, in favor of extensive under-draining, and Charles Harmer against its use in any but swampy places.

The main point of Mr. Harmer was, that where crops were as "nearly perfection as they could be," under-draining, though perhaps making things a little better, would not be enough so to make it a profitable investment.

The main point of the opposition was, that the "little better" of Mr. Harmer was really much better, and "that under-draining paid" in any case.

No one could, of course, think of stopping at Pittsburgh without visiting the world-renowned Knox Fruit farm.—Every one went there.

We should suppose those who saw this celebrated place this season for the first time must have been considerably disappointed. The impression was so prevalent that Mr. Knox was especially favored by nature with a soil, a climate, a sulphurous and smoky atmosphere, and other things fancied to be the *sine qua non* of fruit growing, that very little credit has been given him by his contemporaries for "virtue" in his system of management.—The present season has shown his situation to be as vulnerable as any other.

The Knox farm, of 1866, was no more like the Knox farm, as we saw it in 1865, than a monkey is like a man. Indeed, it would be easier for a "progressive development" savan to show the relations of the monkey to the man, than it would be for us to trace the connection between the appearance of things this season here and the same things last, if we had not been there, and had not we seen for ourselves.

We were both sorry and glad to find things in this condition,—sorry for the sake of the Pittsburgh Commissioner of Internal Revenue; and, for the matter of that, for Knox's own sake, for he is a pretty good sort of a fellow, while his example has been of incalculable value to fruit-growing all over the Union,—and yet glad because it shows that fruit-growing is just as likely to be successful any where as it is at Pittsburgh,—all locations being evidently liable to occasional mishaps, and none being especially favored as a Paradise for the purpose.

Another thing interested us at Knox's. Last year the Jucunda Strawberry came in comparison with several other varieties.

The merits of each had to be carefully weighed, and the balance deliberately thrown in favor of Jucunda. This year "comparisons were odious;" at least they should be to the Jucunda, had it any power in the matter, for the others were not even in pomological language, "good," while, bad as all other things were, Jucunda was still a very pretty sight to see. Had it not been for Jucunda this year, we fancy the Knox Strawberry treasury would have been bankrupt.

So with Grapes. The Concord was doing beautifully,

"O'er all the ills of life victorious."

While if there be any good meaning to the classical *Stat Magni Nominis umbra*, it was well illustrated by the miserable looking Delawares, Ionas, Adirondac, &c., each of which truly "stood a shadow of a great name."

It is much in the favor of the Jucunda Strawberry and Concord Grape, that they should do so well here, when others so nearly failed.

Mr. Knox seems to be largely in the currant line,—acres of these were looking remarkably well, and will pay him handsomely for losses in the failure of other crops; although the extra prices for short supply will perhaps make up somewhat. The best pick of Jucundas brought \$1 per quart during our stay in Pittsburg, against 75, as we saw them last year.

MANAGEMENT OF DOMESTIC POULTRY.

GOLDEN RULES.

Never over feed. Never allow any food to lie about. Never feed from trough, pan, basin, or any vessel. Feed only while the birds will run after the feed, and not at all if they seem careless about it. Give adult fowls their liberty at day-break. Never purchase eggs for hatching purposes until a hen is ready to sit. For seven or eight days before hatching, sprinkle the eggs with cold water while the hen is off. This will prevent the frequent complaint that the chicken was dead in the shell.

Communications.

THE CROPS IN CAPE BRETON.

From Cape Breton we have the most satisfactory account of the weather and crops that has been received for years.—It appears that this year, whilst much hay has been lost in those counties of Nova Scotia that are usually most highly favored by genial weather, the farmers of Cape Breton, on the other hand, who usually lay their account for unpropitious cold and wet, have saved their hay in excellent order:—

Sydney, 15th August, 1866.

Dear Sir.—No report has hitherto reached you from this quarter of the growing crops. The early season indicated by the weather of April was not realized,—wet and cold weather set in in the first week of May, and continued with little intermission until about the middle of June, very much retarding farming operations in wet situations. I believe grain and potatoes both suffered to some little extent. We have since had remarkably fine weather, and I have never seen crops of all kinds looking better than at present.

The hay is nearly all housed and will prove an average crop, in some favorable localities very heavy, in others somewhat light, but on the whole in excess I think of last year.

Grains of all kinds very luxuriant.—Wheat is little sown and has shewn some slight attacks from the insect. Oats, except where the seed perished in early spring, never in my recollection more luxuriant; and the same may be said of Barley.

Potatoes, so far, promise to be the best we have had probably since the tuber has been subject to disease. The Canadian* potatoes sent hither by the Board have been distributed very generally, and, as last year, do not suffer by comparison with any other variety. I found the Coppermines not so sure as the Rusty-coats, and in the cellar nearly half rotted. From four eyes of the Jackson Whites I have this season dug 62 fair sized tubers; so that this excellent potatoe is deserving of more general cultivation than it has yet received here.

Turnips have, it is said, suffered more than usually from the fly, but by late and heavy sowing some very large crops are promising. All the Brassicæ are looking well.

Carrots and parsnips suffered very much from early wet, and subsequently attacks of insects.

Gooseberries are scarce. Currants and wild fruits of all kinds unusually abundant.

Apples are a very heavy crop. Plums better than for two or three years back.

Next month, if you can find room, I hope to furnish a more detailed report than I am at present able to do.

Yours, &c,

H. DAVENPORT.

SOUTH-WEST MARGAREE—REPORT OF THE CROPS.

Hay an average crop, and farmers well through with it, but last week has been unfavourable on account of heavy rains.

Oats, wheat and barley appears to be a heavy crop. The weevil appears to make

* The Goodrich potatoes were from Utica, New York State.—Ed.

some damage in the wheat, but not likely to a great extent.

Potatoes a good heavy crop, but the blight is making its appearance in some localities, but not to a great extent as yet.

Crops in general are likely to be good, if heavy frosts keep away until they come to maturity.

Fruit appears to be abundant.

ALEX. McDONALD, *Sec'y.*
S. W. Margaree, Aug. 25, 1866.

THE CROPS IN HANTS COUNTY.

The hay crop of this district is generally secured, and proves to be an average one in quantity, although the quality for a good marketable article will be rather inferior to that of last year. The growth of grass was very uneven. Some of the best lands, where the crops ripened early, produced much less than the usual quantity; while later growth was brought forward by the summer rains, and yielded better than common.

Oats here are a very heavy crop, and well-filled. Some of the earliest cut were partially injured by the continual wet weather after cutting, and the grain crop everywhere is so beaten down with heavy rains, that it will naturally add to the expense and labor of harvesting.

Potatoes are still free from any appearance of disease, and are looking well, and give promise of a full crop.

The prospects of a green crop were never more encouraging. Roots of all kinds look remarkably well, and are very forward for time of year.

I am, &c.,

SAML. PALMER,
Sec'y Windsor Agr. Society.

NEWS FROM INVERNESS COUNTY.

N. E. Margaree, Aug. 24, 1866.

DEAR SIR,—On the first day of Sept. we sell by public sale,—to make room for a stock of superior breed,—two bulls and ten Leicester rams. These we have had for upwards of eighteen months, having imported from Prince Edward Island.

Although the appearance of our grass crops looked favourable, some weeks ago, I am sorry to have it to report that the constant rains, which even at this moment fall, will not afford much satisfaction in hay-making. The spirits of our farmers are much depressed.

I received the August *Journal* by last mail, and have to congratulate the province on the purchase of the Government Stock Farm.

We may say that the Prince Edward market will not suit us henceforth.

I now conclude by anticipating full bred stock from our own government stock.

I am, &c.,

JNO. MUNRO, *Sec'y.*

A WORD ABOUT THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS IN YARMOUTH.

Hebron, Yarmouth, Aug. 25, 1866.

I suppose the weather has been much the same with us as in other parts of the province. The spring, cold, wet and backward until far into June, was succeeded by fine, warm, dry weather—the month of July unusually so; and latterly extremely wet and rather cold, with strong gales of wind, which has much damaged many crops, particularly corn, oats, barley, and all grain crops.

Hay is a fair crop, and the greater part secured in excellent condition, but there is yet considerable not housed, especially on the dyked marshes, which will be much damaged.

Potatoes will be a good crop, the best for a number of years, if they escape the rot. Blight first made its appearance about ten days ago, and is now general throughout the county. Owing to the wet spring there were not so many planted as usual.

Grain (which, a month ago, promised well,) through damage by the late rains and wind, it is feared will be light.

Garden vegetables of all kinds have grown luxuriantly, but have received much injury from the recent unfavorable weather.

Fruit will be almost a failure; there were very few blossoms on the apple-trees, and the greater part of the few put out have fallen from the trees.

JAMES CROSBY,
Sec'y Yarm. Agr. Society.

THE CROPS IN PICTOU COUNTY.

Wheat, early sown, almost totally destroyed; late sown promises well. No appearance of weevil. I received a small quantity of Canadian wheat, forwarded by Sheriff Harris, sown on the 6th of June; a very fine appearance, and promises well.

Oats and barley a very heavy crop.

Potatoes promises well, and, thus far, no appearance of blight.

Turnips have every appearance of a heavy crop.

Hay, more than an average.

JAMES W. PATTEN,
August 29, 1866.

THE CROPS IN STEWACKE.

Stewiacke, August 23rd, 1866.

Dear Sir,—Respecting the crops I may say that they are generally good.—The hay crop is above an average one, but the weather has been so unfavourable as yet, that not more than one-half of the crop is harvested, and some of it very much injured. The meadows and low

intervale is still very wet; it is feared that there will be much difficulty in getting the hay secured this season. The grain crops look very well. The season has been too wet for to expect a large crop of potatoes.

I remain, yours truly,
JAMES S. TUPPER.

THE CROPS IN CORNWALLIS.

22nd August, 1866.

The hay crop is a fair average, and mostly secured in good order, excepting on low meadows, where there will be some loss on account of the wet weather.

Grain promises to be a good crop, but is considerably injured by the wet. The same may be said with regard to potatoes.

Fruit will be a small crop this season.

ELIAS CALKINS,
Sec'y W. Cornwallis Agr. Soc'y.

WINDSOR AGRICULTURAL FAIR, AND CATTLE SHOW.

The Windsor Agricultural Fair, and Cattle Show will be held at Windsor, on Tuesday the 9th day of October next, when the following premiums will be awarded to the owners of the best specimens of live stock, grain, roots, &c., exhibited on the Fair ground:—

For the best Breeding Mare.....	\$5.00
Second best ditto.....	4.00
Best Bull.....	5.00
Second best ditto.....	4.00
Best Bull Calf.....	1.50
Best Cow.....	4.00
Second best ditto.....	3.00
Third best ditto.....	2.00
Best pair Oxen.....	5.00
Second best ditto.....	4.00
Best pair Working Oxen.....	4.00
Second best ditto.....	3.00
Third best ditto.....	2.00
Best two year old Heifer.....	3.00
Second best ditto.....	2.50
Best two bushels Wheat.....	2.00
Second best ditto.....	1.50
Best two bushels Barley.....	1.50
Second best ditto.....	1.00
Best three bushels Timothy Seed.....	3.00
Best dozen Swedish Turnips.....	1.50
Best ditto Mangel Wurtzel.....	1.50
Best ditto Yellow Carrots.....	1.00
Best ditto White Carrots.....	1.00
Best ditto Beets.....	1.00
Best twenty pounds Cheese.....	2.00
Best two Geese.....	1.00
Best pair Ducks.....	1.00
Best half dozen Fowls, one male bird..	1.00
Best Yearling Heifer.....	2.50
Second best ditto.....	2.00
Best Heifer Calf.....	1.25
Best Ram.....	3.00
Second best ditto.....	2.00
Best Ram Lamb.....	2.00
Second best ditto.....	1.00
Best Ewe.....	2.00
Second best ditto.....	1.50
Best Lwe Lamb.....	1.50
Second best ditto.....	1.00

Best Boar.....	1.00
Second best ditto.....	3.00
Best Sow.....	3.00
Second best ditto.....	2.00
Best two bushels Oats.....	1.50
Second best ditto.....	1.00
Best two bushels Buckwheat.....	1.00
Second best ditto.....	0.75
Best peck Beans.....	1.00
Best peck Peas.....	1.00
Best peck Onions.....	1.00
Best dozen ears Indian Corn.....	1.00
Best dozen Parsnips.....	1.00
Best 30 pounds Butter.....	2.00
Second best ditto.....	1.50
Best 10 yds. Woollen Homespun, Men's wear.....	1.50
Second best ditto.....	1.00
Best 10 yds. ditto, Women's wear.....	1.50
Second best ditto.....	1.00

Under the impression that the establishment of a regular Fair would be an advantage to the farming interest, the Society respectfully informs those interested in the matter that accommodation will be provided separate from the Show grounds for live stock and other agricultural products brought for sale, and solicits the encouragement of farmers and others in giving it a trial.

SAMUEL PALMER,
Secretary W. A. S.

Publications.

THE PHRENOLOGICAL JOURNAL FOR AUGUST.

Messrs. Fowler & Wells have sent us the *Phrenological Journal*, published in New York at \$2 a year. Our faith in phrenology is of a limited kind; but we have read the *Journal* carefully, for it is full of matter of general interest; it contains portraits of Benj. Franklin, Lewis Cass, C. F. Brydges, Brunell, Mrs. Parkhurst, etc., with articles on Responsibility; Sowing and Reaping; The Servant Question; Getting Married; Writing, the Philosophy of Phonography; How to Live; Air and Sunlight; Summer, and its Lessons; Over Eating; Head and Body; Man-Monkeys; Insanity, and Religious Excitements; Physiognomy, Time, Tune, Veneration, Double Chins, Large Ears, etc.

We cannot afford room for any portion of the learned discussion on the length and thickness of people's ears as an index of moral and mental qualities, since the ears of farm stock and beasts of burden are not dilated upon; but we can cordially commend the following paragraph to the attention of every farmer's son; and we add likewise a little poem that may be neatly copied into the album of every farmer's daughter:—

VALUE OF ACCURACY.

It is the result of every day's experience, that steady attention to matters of detail lies at the root of human progress,

and that diligence, above all, is the mother of good luck. Accuracy also is of much importance, and an invariable mark of good training in a man—accuracy in observation, accuracy in speech, accuracy in the transaction of affairs. What is done in business must be well done; for it is better to accomplish perfectly a small amount of work than to half do ten times as much. A wise man used to say, "Stay a little, that we may make an end the sooner." Too little attention, however, is paid to this highly important quality of accuracy. As a man eminent in practical science lately observed, "It is astonishing how few people I have met in the course of my experience who can define a fact accurately." Yet, in business affairs, it is the manner in which even small matters are transacted that often decide men for or against you. With virtue, capacity, and good conduct in other respects, the person who is habitually inaccurate can not be trusted; his work has to be gone over again; and he thus causes endless annoyance, vexation, and trouble.

THE LARK.

A little story of a LARK I'll tell,
And what sad fate the pretty bird befell,
Down in our meadow, where the summer grass
Grows tall, she made her nest. One day, alas!
The men were mowing, and cut off her head,
And left the mother of sweet birds, dead.

Ah me! Must little birdies, helpless die?
"Oh no!" my mother said, "this plan we'll try—
We'll take them home, and when, ere long, we see
The robin leave her nest that's in our tree,
We'll take her eggs and put these birdies there,
And hope she'll treat them with a mother's care."

Soon, when she flew away in search of food,
We took her eggs and left this little brood,
From our piazza we could watch and rest,
And soon she came and lit upon her nest.
"What's here! What meaneth this! old robin said,
While o'er the brood she stood with wings out-spread.
She eyed them—turned her head from side to side,
But what it meant, poor bird could not decide,
So off she flew, and soon brought back her mate;
And now they talk, and wonder, and debate.

Meanwhile the birdies raise their tiny necks,
For each of them a dainty worm expects.

At length they left the birdies all alone,
But soon came back and took them as their own,
For in their bills the dangling worm we see,
And hear each birdie say, "Give one to me!"

And so they fed and loved them day by day,
Till birdies grew to birds and flew away.

This sweet example shown to that young brood,
Should toward all orphans made us kind and good.

Miscellaneous.

THE SILK SPIDER OF S. CAROLINA.

Dr. B. C. Wilder, late surgeon of the Fifty-fifth regiment Massachusetts volunteers (colored) gave the first of four lectures upon the "Silk Spider of South Carolina," in Boston. The *Journal* gives the following brief but interesting synopsis:

The first of this species of spider was discovered by the lecturer, on the North end of Polly Island, while in camp there in August, 1863. He wound from its body, in one hour and a quarter, one hundred and fifty yards of yellow silk. The next year another officer wound from thirty spiders three thousand four hundred and eighty-four yards, or nearly two miles of the silk. A single thread of this was strong enough to sustain a weight of from forty-four to one hundred and seven grains. In 1865, Dr. Wilder showed his specimen to Prof. Aggasiz and others to whom the species was new. Returning to Charleston, he resumed his researches, and after a variety of adventures and disappointments, succeeded in getting a number of the spiders.

In the course of the season these all died from lack of knowledge as to their habits, mode of living, &c. From the eggs deposited, however, many others were produced. It is the habit of the stronger to devour the weaker, so that out of several thousand only a few hundred were raised. The fact, however, was clearly demonstrated that they could be raised and live through a Northern winter. In the succeeding lectures the method of securing the silk, and other facts in regard to this interesting discovery will be given.

Specimens of the silk were exhibited, which were of a golden yellow and a silver white, and as brilliant as the metals in appearance. It is elastic, while the silver colored thread is non-elastic, and is used for the main stays of the web. Dr. Wilder has a lot of these spiders living in the Cambridge Conservatory, and many young broods in his room in Boston. The Doctor has made full communications to the American Academy, and to the Boston Society of Natural History.—*Hunt's Merchants Magazine.*

GOLD AMALGAMATION.

Experiments have lately been undertaken at the Lake Major Company's Mines, Waverly, with the view of testing in a practical manner the value, or otherwise, of Crookes's new process of amalgamation by means of sodium-amalgam.—The crusher and other machinery of these mines being much superior to those of any similar establishment in the Province, the best opportunities have been afforded for a fair trial. The experiments have been carried out by Dr. Krackowizer, the manager of the mines, in conjunction with Prof. Lawson of Dalhousie College, whose laboratory investigations of the process were detailed sometime ago to the Institute of Natural Science. The results are highly satisfactory and fully confirm the favourable opinion that has been formed of Crookes's process, and of

its adaptability to Nova Scotian ores.— One great advantage of the process is the action of the sodium-amalgam upon pyrites, which material abounds in our quartz veins and is known to contain gold, but has hitherto been accumulating around the mines in enormous quantities as a waste material. A portion of this material operated upon by the new process gave at the rate of 5 ounces of gold per ton of pyrites. This is regarded as a remarkable result, and one that will certainly lead to the profitable extraction of gold from pyrites, especially as no extra apparatus is needed such as would be necessary for the chlorine process.

EXPANSION OF ICE.

Rev. Frederic Gardiner, by inserting a line of stakes in the ice across the Kennebec river, in the early part of February, found, in the middle of March, that there had been an expansion of the ice of over 12 feet in a breadth of 500 feet. As during this time the temperature of the water was nearly equal, the expansion must be due to the sun's rays, which was proved by the fact that there was the least expansion on the eastern side, where the ice was partially shielded from the sun by a high bank.

AN IRISH SULPHUR SHOWER.

At the last meeting of the Natural History Society of Dublin, the subject of Sulphur Showers was revived in consequence of a letter from Mr. R. A. Duke, C. E., recording the occurrence of large quantities of a fine-grained yellow powder, on three or four occasions, after a night's rain, in the neighbourhood of Templehouse, county of Sligo. It was strewed in considerable quantities on walks, roads, &c., and grass, as was shown by its sticking to the nostrils of horses and cows grazing. It fell also on the roofs of houses. This yellow rain-dust was first observed on the 6th of May, and fell afterwards on four occasions, of which the last was the 17th May. The Rev. Dr. Haughton examined it chemically, and found 16 parts of sulphur in 1050 parts of yellow powder, omitting clayey particles. This result proved that it could not be regarded as sulphur. Under the microscope it presented the appearance of agglutinated masses, composed of spherical particles, sometimes containing only two or three, and sometimes a score, of single particles. Mr. Duke, and others, considered the yellow dust to be composed of insects' eggs. Mr. Porte suggested that this yellow dust might, on examination, prove to be the pollen of fir trees.—*Gardeners' Chronicle*.

These pollen showers are of annual occurrence in Nova Scotia, New Brun-

wick, Canada, and, in fact, in all countries where there are pine or spruce forests of any great extent. When the trees are in bloom the pollen fills the air, and falls down in an invisible shower, coating the surfaces of the lakes and ponds, and quiet bays of the sea,—collecting between the laps of green-houses and other glazed roofs, and finding its way from the roofs of houses down through the water spouts into cisterns and casks. A portion of the powder placed under the microscope will be seen to have the peculiar grain-form of fir pollen, constricted by a central band. The idea of its being sulphur is an error.

GOOD WHEAT.—Geo. W. Underwood, Esq., brought into our office, last Monday, four stalks of Egyptian Mummy wheat measuring five feet, two inches in height. It was raised on the farm of Mr. George Gordon, of Back Meadows, in the Western part of this County. A Gentleman who had been a number of years in the Western States, stated that for length and cleanliness of straw, and average good quality of grain he had not seen it excelled in these great wheat-producing settlements of the Republic. This speaks well for the climate and soil of Nova Scotia. And be it noted, the stocks sent into our office are not picked ones, but show the average growth of a large field.—*New Glasgow Chronicle*.

CYPRIPEDIUM SPECTABILE.—Some correspondents of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* have discovered that this plant is so hardy that it may be kept over winter in the open air. A plant like this, which stands over winter without injury in the Canadian swamps imbedded in ice, and subjected not unfrequently to temperatures of 30° or 40° below zero in winter, is not likely to catch a cold in an English flower border. Our North American *Cypripediums* are both showy and curious, and ought to be more generally cultivated. They grow easily if treated simply as hardy herbaceous plants.

COLD IN SCOTLAND.—Whilst we had broiling hot weather in Nova Scotia throughout a large portion of the month of June, old Scotia was suffering from excessive cold. According to a correspondent of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* writing under date 19th June, the thermometer ranged from 34° to 40° (it was 70° to 90° in Halifax), and on 18th June, at night, the minimum was 30°, killing potatoes and many other plants.

LAVENDER HEDGES.—There can be no "sweeter" plant for a flower garden hedge than the Lavender. The late Duchess of Sutherland had her private flower garden at Syon House hedged about with Lavender. In Nova Scotia it grows very well, and the plants are easily kept over winter in a frost-proof cellar.

A BUTTER MACHINE.—A machine for working butter is one of the new inventions in England. It consists of a moveable metal cylinder suspended from a small cast iron frame. The bottom of the cylinder is a loose piece of galvanized iron, and above it the cylinder is suspended in a bowl of water, and the butter is placed in the cylinder, and pressed by a screw piston, the result of which is that the butter is forced through the holes into the water in the shape of vermicelli. By this means all the buttermilk is excluded, and the butter is found to be much closer and sweeter than when made by hand.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Durand's Seedling Strawberry.

A new variety, possessing all the requisites of a perfect market and family Strawberry. Superior to any now in existence. Circulars, with full description, price of plants, and a general list of nursery stock, mailed to all applicants.—

Address,
aug 15

FRANCIS BRILL,
Newark, New Jersey.

DONKEYS!

WANTED to purchase *Two Donkeys*, good for Side-saddle use. Address "D," care of Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, stating price, &c.
May 20th, 1866.

STOCK FOR SALE!

PRIZE BOAR SWEEPSTAKES, price \$40
Two Year Old SOV in pig - - - - " 40
One Shearling RAM - - - - - " 30
Fifteen RAM LAMBS, each - - - - " 15
16 EVE LAMBS, each - - - - - " 15
Agricultural Societies in Cape Breton can have them delivered on board steamer for Sydney Bay by paying expenses.

H. E. DECIE, Ann. Co
May 15, 1866.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Literary Communications are to be addressed to Dr. Lawson, Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, Dalhousie College, Halifax. All lists of subscribers and remittances of subscriptions are to be sent to Messrs. A. & W. McKinlay Publishers, Granville Street, Halifax.

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